

# Lead Line

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy

Volume 1, Number 2, August 2003, Ana Chambers, MPH, Editor

## In This Issue

### Page 1

\*Attorneys General and NPCA Agreement

### Page 2

\*ACCESS Agency LEAP Project  
\*Training Updates  
\*Web Links

### Page 3

\*Keep It Clean 2003  
\*New London Keeps It Clean

### Page 4

\*ECOS Grant Submitted  
\*Hartford Gets the Lead Out

### Page 5

\*New Haven Lead Poisoning Prevention Picnic Shines

### Page 6

\*New Haven Keeps It Clean

### Page 7

\*CLPPP Semi-Annual Meeting

### Page 8

\*Lead News

**Leadline** is a publication of the  
Department of Public Health

**Bureau of Community Health**  
*Ardell Wilson, DDS, MPH,*  
*Bureau Chief*

**Division of Childhood Surveillance,  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**  
*Renée Coleman-Mitchell, MPH,*  
*Division Director*

This newsletter was supported by  
Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number  
US7/CCU122845-01 from Centers for  
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).  
Its contents are solely the responsibility  
of the authors and do not necessarily  
represent the official views of the  
CDC.

## Agreement Reached Between State Attorneys General and the National Paint and Coatings Association, Inc.

Francesca Provenzano, Lead Environmental Management Unit

On Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and DPH Commissioner Joxel Garcia announced during a press conference that Connecticut had reached an agreement with the National Paint and Coating Association, Inc. (NPCA). This agreement was also reached by 47 other Attorneys General throughout the United States. The agreement includes the following provisions:



- the labeling of paint containers with a consumer warning statement explaining the dangers of sanding or disturbing older painted surfaces that may contain lead-based paint;
- the distribution of the New England regional Keep-It-Clean Campaign brochure (or an equivalent outreach brochure) at retail paint and hardware outlets;
- sponsorship (funding) of lead-safe work practices training throughout the United States and U.S. possessions; and
- the development of a web-based, lead-safe training program for retail paint outlet employees.

The DPH Lead Program (LEMU and CLPPP) consider this agreement to be an excellent opportunity to promote lead poisoning prevention awareness through Connecticut's U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved lead-safe work practices training course, as well as through the statewide Keep-It-Clean Campaign.

## THE ACCESS AGENCY LAUNCHES "LEAD ELIMINATION ACTION PROGRAM"

Barbara Catrette, ACCESS Agency, Inc.

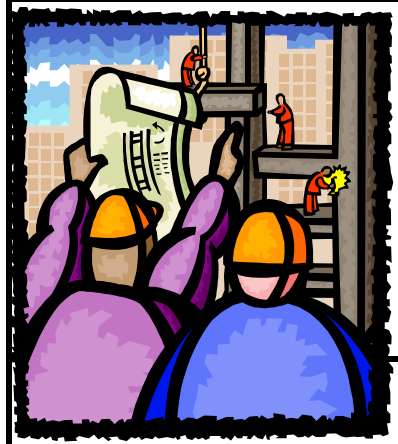
The ACCESS Agency, Inc. located in Willimantic, has been awarded a two-year, \$800,000 grant from HUD for the safe remediation of lead in low-income single and multi-family homes built before 1978 in Windham and Tolland Counties. The Lead Elimination Action Program (LEAP) project's primary goal will be remediation of lead in housing units of children under the age of six. The project's primary focus will be those units with children having an elevated blood level (EBL) of 20 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl) or greater and where pregnant women reside. A secondary, but equally important focus, will be on units with children having an EBL between 10ug/dl and 19ug/dl. Thirdly, the focus will be on units housing a child under the age of six with no EBL.

The aim of the LEAP project is to remedy unsafe living environments for children under the age of six through education and training. The program will also provide financial assistance to property owners to help facilitate remediation of lead in the home. An assessment and estimate will be provided by LEAP to the property owners with the information and costs in relation to the necessary corrective measures. Importance will be placed on cost effective measures through low-level interventions and abatement procedures to render the unit/building lead-safe.

All lead remediation services will be paid for by a 25% property owner contribution and 75% monetary contribution from the LEAP project. All pre and post lead inspections, abatement work orders, abatement work, and final clearance will be done by licensed, certified lead abatement contractors in conjunction with federal and state laws. ACCESS will execute, monitor, and provide relocation coordination services as required.

### BENEFITS:

- ◆ Decrease the chance of lead poisoning in children and the harmful mental, physical, and social effects it causes.
- ◆ Provide families and property owners with information to make lead-safe decisions.
- ◆ Provide affected children with a lead-safe environment.
- ◆ Increase awareness of lead hazard to the public.
- ◆ Provide property owners with the financial means to make their properties lead-safe.
- ◆ Improve quality of residential properties for low-income families and property owners.
- ◆ Decrease liability to property owners.



### Training Updates

City of New London to hold  
One-Day Lead Safe Work  
Practices Training:

**Tuesday, August 19th  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Cost for contractors is  
\$20.00 per person; \$10.00  
per person with 4 or more  
from the same company.  
Continental breakfast and  
lunch will be provided.

**For more information or to  
register, contact:**

**Eileen Tedford  
Lead Hazard Reduction Pro-  
gram  
860-437-6327**

### Check Out These Links

**CT Health Foundation**

[www.cthealth.org](http://www.cthealth.org)

**CT Health Policy Project**

[www.cthealthpolicy.org](http://www.cthealthpolicy.org)

**Anne E. Casey Foundation**

[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)



## 2003 KEEP-IT-CLEAN CAMPAIGN

Mark Aschenbach, Lead Environmental Management Unit

The DPH Lead Environmental Management Unit (LEMU) staff worked closely with local health department contacts to obtain partnership commitments from paint and hardware retail stores to participate in this year's "Keep-It-Clean" (KIC) Campaign, which ran from March 14th through June 30th. The LEMU obtained commitments from 86 local health departments encompassing 155 towns to help spread the KIC message. To date, 139 store partnership agreements have been received.

To kick off this year's campaign, members of LEMU, together with staff from EPA's New England region, manned an educational booth at the Home Builders Association of Eastern Connecticut. The fair was held at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville from February 21 through February 23. The booth featured the distribution of educational information to the general public including the KIC brochures entitled "The Homeowner's Guide to Lead-Safe Painting & Home Improvement". The New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) Keep-It-Clean banner was also displayed.

This year's campaign featured the distribution of 2 new "Healthy Homes" brochures in addition to the KIC brochure. These new brochures present facts on indoor air quality issues such as mold, radon, and asbestos, as well as educational information on chemical safety in the yard. Topics covered include pesticides, chemicals in the soil, insect repellents, and pressure treated wood.

A significant development with regards to this year's KIC campaign is the recent agreement reached by 45 State Attorneys General and the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) to affix lead paint warning labels to new paint containers. Not only will this result in the promotion of timely and meaningful notice to consumers of the potential risks of lead exposure, but also the agreement references the use of point-of-purchase written material such as the KIC brochure. **For more information regarding the agreement, see page one.**

### Keeping It Clean in New London

The Lead Hazard Reduction Plan (L-HARP) of New London's Department of Health and Rings End Paint Center provided weekly educational presentations and lead screenings for the months of May and June to adults whose occupations may place them at risk for lead exposure and poisoning.

Topics included understanding what lead is, how lead is absorbed and ingested, how a healthy diet can decrease the amount of lead absorbed, and how to prevent exposure. Other information included a definition of what various blood levels mean and a discussion of the long term effects of lead.

Free lead screenings for children and adults were also offered. These are just some of many things New London is doing during the **Keep-It-Clean Campaign**.

## DPH Submits ECOS Grant Application

Sandra Ferreira, DPH Asthma Program

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Asthma and Childhood Lead submitted an application to the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) National Childhood Asthma Prevention campaign pilot project "Minimizing Environmental Factors that Affect Asthma in Children" on May

30, 2003. The submission of this proposal is a collaboration with the DPH as the lead agency, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Hartford/St. Francis Regional Lead Treatment Center and the Yale New Haven Children's Environmental Health Program. If selected for an award, the resources will provide significant federal funds to help continue the Hartford Hospital Healthy Homes and Yale New Haven Children's Environmental Health/Asthma Outreach Program initiatives. Funding will allow these two programs to continue to make services

The goal of this project is to help reduce and prevent childhood asthma.

available to the greater New Haven and Hartford residents. The project will focus on using lead outreach workers to provide education on asthma triggers in the home and, in some cases, relocation assistance. The goal of this project is to help reduce and prevent childhood asthma.

## Hartford is Getting the Lead Out

Owen J. Humphries Jr., Hartford Health Department

Since 2001, the City of Hartford Health Department has implemented a Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program which assists qualified Hartford property owners in reducing the serious threat that lead poisoning poses to families with young children. Funding to conduct this program is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Hartford was selected during the round 8 grantee funding cycle.

Previous to this individual award selection, the Hartford Health Department partnered with the State of Connecticut, Departments of Health and Housing, and HUD to ensure that 230 units were made lead safe.

Hartford's present program has assisted 48 individual buildings resulting in 196 units having been made lead-safe. An additional 35 units are presently under risk reduction abatement. To date, \$1.7 million have been expended in efforts to provide every child with a lead-safe home. The program is presently on target to meet its goal of 330 completed units by March 2004.

Since 1996, Hartford's Lead Hazard Control Program has made 426 units lead-safe and by the completion of the program will have reduced lead based paint exposure in an additional 120 units for a total of 546.

In addition to providing lead hazard control funds to property owners, the program also has held Lead Worker Training workshops and awareness training for tenants and property owners. For more information, please contact Owen J. Humphries at:

**860-547-1426 ext. 7186 or [ohumphries@ci.hartford.ct.us](mailto:ohumphries@ci.hartford.ct.us).**

## Despite Cloudy Day New Haven Health Department Lead Poisoning Prevention Picnic Shines

Leonard R. Nelson, Jr., New Haven Health Department

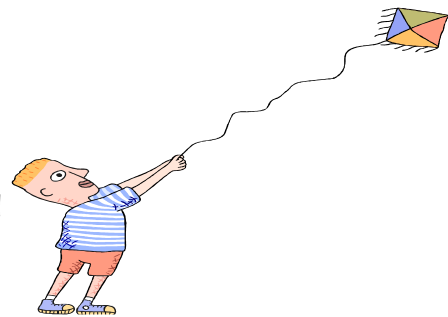
In weather that only Noah himself could appreciate, the New Haven Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Health held its third annual Lead Poisoning Prevention Picnic at Lighthouse Point Park on June 01, 2003. Despite the morning rain, the event drew approximately 125 children and their families. All participants enjoyed a free picnic lunch, entertainment, and complimentary carousel rides.

The event has grown significantly over its short history and has sparked interest in the community which, in turn, has led to the invitation of other service-oriented agencies



within the neighborhood. In addition to staff from the New Haven Health Department and the Yale Lead Program, families met with representatives from the Department of Public Health, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Children & Families, Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund, 211 Info-Line, and the City's Livable City Initiative. Attendees received valuable information about the various services available to them from these many agencies.

Children had many opportunities to learn about the dangers of lead based paint in fun and interactive venues which included watching Magic and Puppet shows, having face painters from the Paier College of Art paint their faces, designing and planting their own flower pots, and playing with toy giveaways which sported the lead poisoning prevention message. Carousel rides and carnival music supported the festive mood while popcorn, cotton candy, and Italian Ice were enjoyed by all. Parents were greeted by the Health Department's lead inspectors and social workers from the Yale Lead Program who manned informational booths where staff members presented lead prevention printed materials and answered parent's questions while the children enjoyed the day's activities. Children happily wore their free screen-printed tee-shirts which helped to spread the lead poisoning prevention message "Lead Free is Best for Me".





## Keeping It Clean in New Haven

Leonard R. Nelson, Jr., New Haven Health Department



The New Haven Health Department, in collaboration with the State Department of Public Health's Lead Environmental Management Unit (LEMU) and the New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC), hosted its fifth annual **Keep-It-Clean** campaign at Grand Paint and Frank's Hardware on May 03, 2003. Health Department Lead Inspectors set-up educational displays in both stores and provided free coffee, orange juice, and donuts to shoppers. As store patrons helped themselves to the refreshments, lead inspectors presented printed materials and give-away items in an effort to educate homeowners, renters, contractors and home renovators about the potential lead poisoning risks they might encounter when working on homes built before 1978.

The event drew approximately 175 participants between the two host stores and managers were eager to have inspectors leave additional reference materials on display after the events had concluded.

Lead poisoning of children is entirely preventable and by targeting home renovators, painters, and "do it yourself-ers", the New Haven Health Department is hoping to help parents and home renovators become more aware of the methods they need to employ in order to keep children safe.



The host stores have asked that this event be offered more than once a year. The New Haven Health Department is in the process of applying for grant money in order to help fund educational ventures such as the **Keep-It-Clean** event so that this event, and others like it, can be offered on a more frequent basis throughout the year.



## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Semi-Annual Meeting Proves a Great Success

Ana Chambers, MPH, DPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) semi-annual meeting was held on May 7th at the Yale University Campus in the Hope Seminar Rooms. Approximately 75 persons were in attendance at this all-day meeting which featured presentations from LAMPP Project Director, Ron Kraatz and Yale Lead Program Psychological Services Director, Sherin Stahl, Ph.D. Attendees also had an opportunity to hear from CLPPP and LEMU staff on topics of international adoption and **Keep-It-Clean 2003**. After lunch, 3 concurrent workshop sessions were held regarding Health Education, Case Management, and Medicaid Managed Care lead poisoning initiatives.



Several valuable suggestions for future meeting agenda items were collected from the group that day, by way of your evaluation responses. These include, but are not limited to:

- \*outreach to immigrant families without insurance
- \*expanding outreach efforts more effectively
- \*more presentations from the field; more local flavor
- \*low-level lead prevention (10-15 mcg/dl)
- \*real-life case studies
- \*abatement enforcement and follow-up; clearance problems.

**Keep these ideas in mind because we will be calling you as we begin planning for the November meeting!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The next Childhood Lead Semi-Annual meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the MDC Training Center in Hartford. More information and details to come.

## Lead News

The DPH CLPPP is looking for health educators interested in joining a "trainers bureau" to teach the child care curriculum throughout the state to daycare providers. Please contact Ana Chambers.

-----

The DPH CLPPP will be working through the summer and early fall to compile all of the health education, case management, regulatory, and miscellaneous information into one complete manual. We will be looking for volunteers to field test this item. Please contact Ana Chambers if you are interested in participating and/or have any suggestions for materials that we should include.

**Contact Information for Ana Chambers, DPH CLPPP Health Education Coordinator is listed below.**

860-509-7745  
860-509-7785 fax  
Ana.Chambers@po.state.ct.us

## Lead Line

We need your input. The CLPPP Newsletter will be published quarterly. We will also provide brief updates, via e-mail, throughout the year as deemed necessary. We want to hear from you on the following columns which will become a regular part of *Leadline*.



**Where's the Lead?** - An environmental perspective through the eyes of our sanitarians in the field. Tell us about what types of unique scenarios you are facing and how you have resolved them. Please provide your article in a problem/solution format.

**Questions and Answers** - Send us your questions and we will try to answer them.

**Outreach Corner** - This column will focus on a health educator's experiences providing targeted intervention and education programs to specific audiences. Tell us about how you identify the gap and then take measures to fill it.

Please provide all of your newsletter articles in word format and email to Ana Chambers at:

Ana.Chambers@po.state.ct.us.

